

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application:

IN THE CLAIMS

1-46. (Cancelled).

46. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method for eye track assisted pointer positioning comprising:

operating an eye tracking apparatus to monitor a user's eye movements as the user views a visual display;

detecting the user's eye orientation, relative to the visual display;

moving a visual pointer from a first location to a second location of the visual display that corresponds to the user's eye orientation;

providing a visual indicator in the visual display between the first location and the second location;

automatically changing the visual indicator to a reading guide in response to the eye tracking apparatus recognizing a user's eye movement pattern as a read mode, where the reading guide is located in a margin at the beginning of a line of text that is read;

repositioning the reading guide in response to the eye tracking apparatus determining the user approaches the end of a line of text; and

in response to the eye tracking apparatus determining that the user's eye movements are one of slowing down or stopping on a link in the text, exiting the read mode and changing the visual indicator to a pointer for a pointing device to enable the user to click on the link.

47. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method as in claim 46, wherein the visual indicator provides visual continuity between the first location and the second location of the visual pointer.

48. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method as in claim 46, wherein moving the visual pointer to the second location is based on inferring user intent from the user's detected eye orientation.

49. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method for eye track assisted pointer positioning comprising:

operating an eye tracking apparatus to monitor a user's eye movements as the user views a visual display;

detecting the user's eye orientation, relative to the visual display;

automatically changing the visual indicator to a reading guide in response to the eye tracking apparatus recognizing a user's eye movement pattern as a read mode, where the reading guide is located in a margin at the beginning of a line of text that is read;

moving the reading guide from a first location to a second location of the visual display that corresponds to the user's eye orientation in response to the eye tracking apparatus determining that the user approaches the end of a line of text; and

in response to the eye tracking apparatus determining that the user's eye movements are one of slowing down or stopping on a link in the text, exiting the read mode and changing the visual indicator to a pointer for a pointing device to enable the user to click on the link.

50. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method as in claim 49, wherein the reading guide comprises an open bracket.

51. (Cancelled).

52. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method as in claim 49, wherein the reading guide scrolls lines of displayed text in response to the user's eye orientation based on input received from the eye tracking apparatus.

53. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method as in claim 49, wherein the reading guide is changed to a visual pointer based on sensing an eye movement of the user.

54. (Cancelled).

55. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method as in claim 46, where the visual indicator is one of a linear retro guide and a pulse and is not comprised of multiple mouse pointers.

56. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method as in claim 46, wherein the visual indicator comprises a substantially linear display element.